
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

10/21/08

The Board of Selectmen met in the Town Hall, Joseph F. Bilotta Meeting Room as scheduled with Thomas Alonzo, Paula Bertram, Steven M. deBettencourt, Thomas Mason, Dave Matthews and CAFO Kerry Speidel present. Meeting opened at 7:0 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Yard Waste Days - The Lunenburg Landfill, off of Youngs Road will be open for consecutive Saturdays October 18th and continuing to November 22nd, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Acceptable material: grass clippings, bark mulch, wood chips, leaves, brush (with a diameter not to exceed 3 inches, unlimited length). Shrubbery and plantings, with the same restrictions. Any container; bags, boxes, barrels, trashcans, tarps, flower pots, etc., must be removed and taken by the resident. No household garbage, trash, or rubbish of any kind will be accepted. No materials within the Landfill area; sand, stone, gravel, etc. are to be given away or sold. Access will be restricted to the disposal area. Commercial landscapers will not be allowed to dump. OPEN TO LUNENBURG RESIDENTS ONLY.

Historical Society Lecture, October 23, 2008 – History of Lunenburg Fire Department – The public is invited to attend a lecture, October 23, at 7:00 P.M. in the Lunenburg Fire Department's lecture hall, 655 Massachusetts Ave., Presented by Chief Scott Glenny and his top ranking deputy, profiling Lunenburg Fire Department's early history up to its current technological excellence. This event presents a highly appropriate time to pay tribute to the Chief and his quick thinking firefighters, whose rapid response to the 911 call, July 25 resulted in containing the flash fire in the upper level of the Lunenburg Historical Society and saving the vast majority of the Society's artifacts. Admission is free and light refreshments will follow the program.

Congratulations to the Lunenburg High School Varsity Football game for their outstanding win this past weekend and maintaining their undefeated season

Sunday, October 26th is the Myles for Miles race, information available at town hall and the schools.

2. Financial Summit, October 30, 2008 – 6:00 PM – televised next Thursday @ 7:00 PM from town hall, people will be afforded the opportunity to ask questions.

APPOINTMENTS

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. CAFO Updates

- Ritter Building, still anticipating moving into the building in mid-November. Currently constructing the elevator shaft and the Assistant Building Inspector is serving as the Inspector on the project as the Building Inspector is serving as the general contractor. The installation of the platform lift may hold us up a couple of weeks as the lift is on order and will take several weeks for delivery. Decision as to how the move will occur still to be determined.

2. Minutes - Board of Selectmen Regular Session for 10/14/08 reviewed and signed.

Warrants - #20 09, 10/20/08 - \$214,787.41 and #19 09, 10/21/08 - \$153,954.19 reviewed and signed.

3. Action File Issues

- Paula recused herself as she is a member of the Lunenburg Family Lions Club who is requesting to hold a can drive at the intersection of Whalom Road and Electric Ave. and in the center of town on November 15, 2008 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Steve's concern is that the Whalom Road / Electric Ave. intersection speed is at 40 mph. Steve motion to approve contingent upon Police Chief's review of that location, if safe to do, then in favor. Dave seconded, voted Tom M., aye, Dave aye, Steve aye, Tom A. aye.

Paula suggested the board hold a workshop to discuss the Lake Shirley Dam as there were a number of actions that the town was to be in compliance with particularly with the approaching budget season. Board would like a copy of the inspection and evaluation report

prior to a scheduled workshop. Emergency action plan itself is a very immense document and as such the board is advised to review the book in the office.

A workshop with the Sewer Commission is also to be scheduled.

Board signed the Proclamation for Joshua Steven Branham for his attaining the position of Eagle Scout.

4. Auctioneer License – Application submitted by Ronald Pelletier (State License #AU1704) to hold a one day auction at 209 Leominster Road, home of Donald Gillis on October 26th, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM, preview time will be 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Intent is to sell off items in lots. Steve motion to grant, Tom M. seconded, voted unanimously.

5. Quarterly Update, Public Safety – Present were Police Chief Dan Bourgeois and Fire Chief Scott Glenny. Chief Bourgeois advised the board of grant opportunities. Secured a community oriented grant with the school department SOS, Save Our Schools for safety features, locks, lighting etc. Chief Bourgeois informed the board that with the Governor's budget we will realize a significant loss on community policing, anything pro-active public safety wise, looking at anywhere from 35% to total loss of funding. Also, anticipating a loss in Burn Grant money used for drug activity work in supplies and manpower. Applying for an Underage Enforcement Grant from the feds to run surveillance throughout town. Reviewed stats since first of July 08 and for the past year the stats have been increasing, have recently seen a rash of larceny's in the Houghton's Mills Road and Rolling Acres Road areas. As economy weakens, the police see an increase in crimes. Most recently reports of phone calls perporing to be from North Middlesex Savings Bank and would advise that people just hang up, the bank is aware of it and ask people to call the station if they have knowledge of who is doing this. The town is a member of a regional Task Force, which is comprised of many local communities and this has greatly impacted the street level and midlevel dealers and would like to recognize their initiatives. We have two officers who are certified to install child safety seats and would advise the public to contact Officers Gammel or Connery if they need assistance. Working with State Police to offer more available services. Department has also been participating in distance learning through the Municipal Police Institute, online training for inservice classes. Looking into joining Central Mass Law Enforcement Council, Mutual Aid Agreement which will offer services such as SWAT team, in addition to what the State Police have to offer. Distributed bicycle helmets to kids at the recent town fair, noted the Senior Center BBQ and expressed appreciation to Hannaford and Wal*mart for their donations. Overall message is Chief is very proud of the staff and perform without missing a beat, have a good group of people out there and they're working hard.

Chief Glenny reveiwed stats of the Fire Department from July through September, various fairs, tours and trainings for first aid. Representatives have been going out speaking on fire prevention to schools and seniors.

Noted that the importance of doing preplanning is to be prepared in the event of an emergency and the department regularly does hose testing and pump testing, which is extremely labor intensive. Ladder truck is currently out of service and is anticipated to be back in two weeks, the pumper truck is in service and has recently been used at the accident today and worked out extremely well. The new ambulance has been ordered and expect delivery by the end of November beginning of December. Extended appreciation to the board for allowing the MDA boot drive in the center of town. The firefighters will have their first ball on March 20th at Best Western in Fitchburg invitation extended to the board.

Chairman extended appreciation to the Chiefs and their departments for their service to the town.

6. Question 1 – Position Statement – Chair discussed the link to the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation debate on this issue and reveiwed the attached "Enormous Consequences of Question 1" and the agenda of where they'll be hosting seminars / events. Informations will be available at the Board of Selectmen office and will be posted on Town Hall bulletin board.

Reiterated his opinion of last week, and understands the desire that people have and want to vote in this direction. Although waste in the State government, would support an audit, however doesn't believe that there is 40% waste in government. Nobody is offering even the slightest hint of where these cuts should take place and so much of the states budget is mandated by state charter or education. The cuts to the remaining money would require 70% cuts in everything which is stated the the attached document. Would ask for a recommendation from the board on this very important question and reviewed the attached information, estimated cut to our school would be about a 23% cut and a 65% cut to the town in state aid.

Discussed the waste and need for improvements within the state and that everytime we make a decision on financial issues we have the data available, nowhere is there any information as to where the proponents came up with the 41% waste. To randomly put a number out there is not responsible, know the waste is there and understand the frustration but this is not the right approach. Longterm don't believe that this is going to benefit the people who most need assistance, better ways to get this done and will not solve the percieved waste. In other states that don't have income taxes, they are using other means, property taxes, gambling, sales taxes this tactic ultimately will not save the average homeowner any money. Potential fallout from this question is enormous and will affect us at the local level.

Overall consensus of the board was not in favor of Question #1 – Tom M., motion to recommend a no vote, Dave seconded, Tom M. aye, Dave aye, Paula aye, Tom A. aye and Steve no. Urge people to go out and be an educated voter, to investigate the pro's and con's on this quesiton.

Dave Rodgers came before the board to respond to Board's request to speak about Ballot Question #1. Has been great effort on getting the actual state budget numbers and this is a job for the legislature, has never seen a Senator or Legislator embrace programs to increase taxes in this state, they need to really look at the waste, and cannot implement a law without funding. Taking a defeatist attitude here instead of being proactive throughout the state to do an in depth analysis. Special interest groups have to be dealt with and people are really frustrated. His understanding is that it is the legislative body that decides on spending. Advertisements are stating that a host of things will be cut and they are using scare tactics. There is a lot of waste in state government and convinced that there is waste and things should be taken into account to do things differently and for this reason he supports the question, something drastic needs to be done and think it's time to push back. Should mimic our neighbors to the north, New Hampshire.

7. State Election Warrant – signed by Board of Selectmen by unanimously vote.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Committee Updates

- Land Use Committee meeting tomorrow @ 5:30 in town hall, have been actively updating the towns open space plan.
- School Advisory Committee has been discussing if the town doesn't vote to regionalize, the next meeting is tomorrow at the Brooks House.
- Meadow Woods, sewer line has been installed up to Arbor Street and Sewer Commission is waiting on response from Town Counsel on the Tri-Town project. Town has serious limitations on the capacity with the other communities and the costs associated with the allocations and as far as the Tri-Town project there was no question that the allocation was granted however, there was never any discussion with regards to costs associated with either connection or privilege fees.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS / REAPPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Being no further business board voted unanimously to adjourn Regular Session at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Williams, Chief Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen